

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

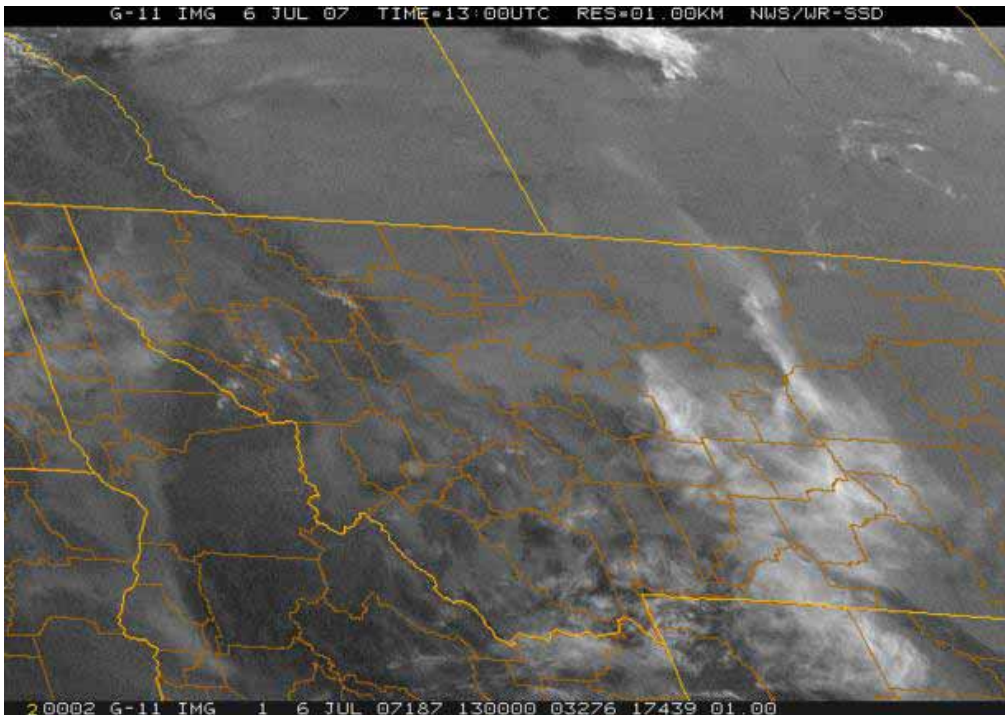
July 6,7,8 2007

2:00 PM Friday July 6

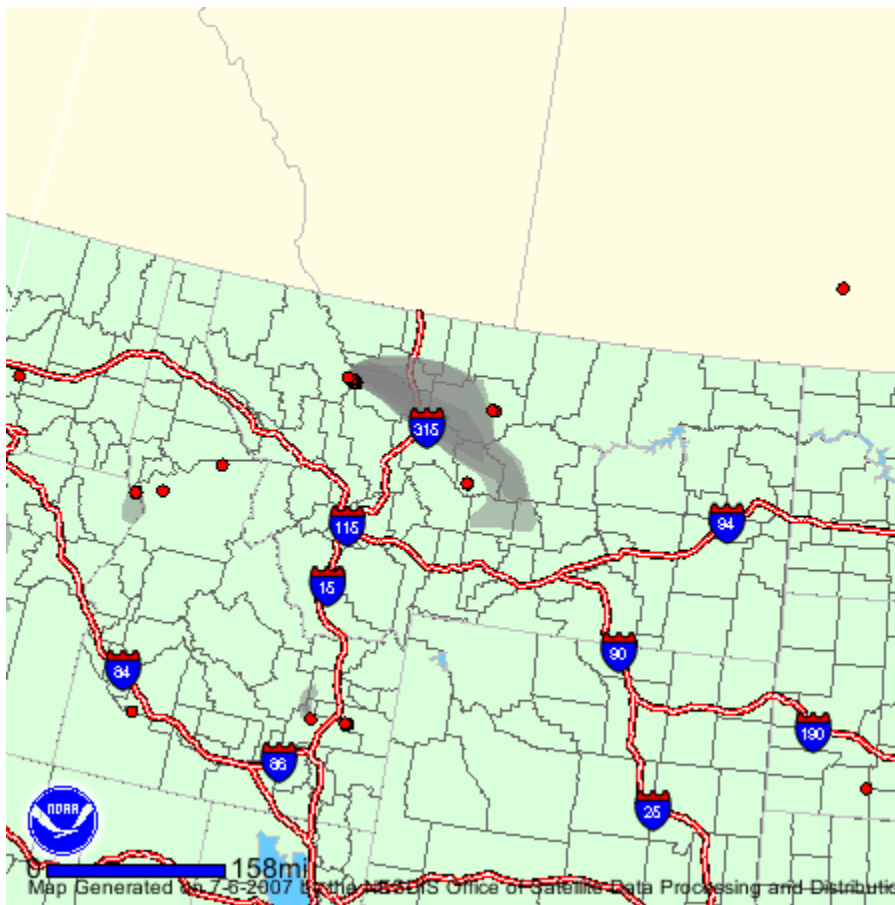
Current Situation

There is a lot of residual smoke aloft today from the big plume the Fool Creek fire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness west of Choteau put up last night. The smoke came late enough in the day that it stayed aloft by the time it reached the edge of the Wilderness and surface level impacts outside of the Wilderness have not been a problem today. There was a lot of smoke trapped in the valley of the North Fork of the Sun River this morning and conditions there were likely UNHEALTHY or worse. Some smoke will likely mix down over central and eastern Montana this afternoon and be noticeable but mostly the only impact will be the hazy sky. This fire has the potential to put up a lot of smoke the next few days, depending on what the weather conditions dictate. See the forecast below for likely areas of impact over the weekend. This web site will not be updated until Monday July 9. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the VISIBILITY GUIDELINES to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/SmokeCategories.asp>

Updated 2 PM July 6, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

<u>HAZARDOUS</u>	
VERY UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY	
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	
MODERATE	

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
(est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local visibility guidelines

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp>

to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

Hot, mostly dry and windy conditions are expected today along with some scattered thunderstorms. Plumes from fires this afternoon will likely head northeast and then switch around to the east and then southeast Saturday afternoon. Some east winds are forecast during the Sunday time period and that has historically produced big buildups of

smoke against the front range when fire activity levels are high. Right now there are no big fires upwind of Montana and most smoke problems are expected to be local. Residents near active fires need to remain aware of current conditions and use the visibility guidelines:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/VisibilityRanges.asp>

to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

John Coefield
Meteorologist
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Jcoefield@mt.gov